

Message Text

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PAGE 01 USUN N 00272 020042Z

ACTION IO-13

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AF-08 ARA-06 EA-07 EUR-12 NEA-10 L-03

ABF-01 OMB-01 TRSE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01

INR-07 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 AID-05 EB-08 COME-00 HEW-04 /121 W

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FM USMISSION USUN NEWYORK

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2227

INFO USMISSION GENEVA

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SGEN, SHUM

SUBJ: COMMITTEE ON NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS (NGOS)

REF: USUN 140

1. SUMMARY. FOLLOWING REVIEWS THE AGENDA FOR THE FORTHCOMING SESSION OF THE COMMITTEE ON NGOS (FEBRUARY 7-11) AND FLAGS ISSUES WHICH IN MISSION'S VIEW COULD RAISE SERIOUS PROBLEMS FOR US. END SUMMARY.

2. THE NGO COMMITTEE IS SCHEDULED TO MEET FEB 7-11, CURRENT MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE ARE CHILE, CUBA, CZECHOSLOVAKIA, FRANCE, GHANA, JAPAN, KENYA, SWEDEN, TUNISIA, USSR, UK, AND US. PROVISIONAL AGENDA FOR THIS SESSION HAS BEEN CIRCULATED AS E/C.2/769.

3. IT IS OUR UNDERSTANDING THAT THE CHAIRMAN OF THE COMMITTEE DOES NOT ROTATE ON A GEOGRAPHICAL BASIS BUT IS THRUST UPON WHOMEVER CAN BE TALKED INTO DOING THE JOB. GIVEN THE FACT THAT THE COMMITTEE DECISIONS ARE TRADITIONALLY MADE ON THE BASIS OF CONSENSUS AND THAT PREVIOUS

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PAGE 02 USUN N 00272 020042Z

REPORTS HAVE BEEN A STRAIGHTFORWARD RECITATION OF ACTIONS TAKEN, WE DO NOT ATTACH SPECIAL IMPORTANCE TO THE ELECTION OF OFFICERS.

4. FOR OBVIOUS REASONS THE CRITICAL ISSUE WILL INVOLVED APPLICATIONS FOR CONSULTATIVE STATUS FOR NGOS. MISSION HAS POUCHED TO DEPT (IO/IEP, CHAVEAS) THE PRELIMINARY

LISTS OF ORGANIZATIONS SEEKING CONSULTATIVE STATUS AS WELL AS THE DRAFT APPLICATIONS OF THOSE ORGANIZATIONS BASED IN THE US. FOLLOWING ARE OUR COMMENTS ON THE US-BASED ORGANIZATIONS. DEPT SHOULD RECALL THAT THE QUESTION IS NOT ONLY ONE OF OUR SUPPORT FOR CONSULTATIVE STATUS BUT ALSO WHICH CATEGORY (I.E., CATEGORIES I AND II, OR ROSTER).

A. AMERICAN BAR ASSOCIATION (APPLYING FOR CATEGORY II). REPS OF THE ABA HAVE APPROACHED THE MISSION INFORMALLY REQUESTING THAT WE SUPPORT THEIR APPLICATION. THE PROBLEM IS WHETHER THEY QUALIFY AS AN INTERNATIONAL AS OPPOSED TO NATIONAL ORGANIZATION (ECOSOC RESOLUTION 1296, PARA 7) AND MOREOVER THE FACT THAT THEY ARE AFFILIATED WITH THE INTERNATIONAL BAR ASSOCIATION, AN INTERNATIONAL NGO IN CONSULTATIVE STATUS (ECOSOC RESOLUTION 1296, PARA 9).

ALTHOUGH WE DO NOT QUESTION THE POSITIVE ROLE THE ABA COULD PLAY IN THE UN SYSTEM, MISSION IS CONCERNED ABOUT THE IMPACT ON US PUBLIC OPINION IF THEIR APPLICATION IS REJECTED. DEPT MAY WISH TO DISCUSS THIS DIRECTLY WITH THE ABA.

B. CATHOLIC RELIEF ORGANIZATION (APPLYING FOR CATEGORY II). FACES THE SAME PROBLEM AS THE ABA WITH REGARD TO A NATIONAL CHARACTER AND ITS AFFILIATION WITH INTERNATIONAL NGOS ALREADY IN CONSULTATIVE STATUS. SECRETARIAT OFFICIALS BELIEVE, HOWEVER, THAT THE CRO CAN MAKE LEGITIMATE CLAIMS TO INTERNATIONAL LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PAGE 03 USUN N 00272 020042Z

FUNCTIONS AND MEMBERSHIP AND MAY BE ABLE TO GENERATE MORE SUPPORT.

C. INTERNATIONAL INDIAN TREATY COUNCIL (APPLYING FOR CATEGORY I). DESERVES TO BE LOOKED AT CAREFULLY. MISSION, HOWEVER, DOES NOT HAVE ANY BACKGROUND INFORMATION ON THIS ORGANIZATION.

D. WORLD COUNCIL OF CREDIT UNIONS (APPLYING FOR RECLASSIFICATION FROM ROSTER TO CATEGORY II). RAN INTO SOVIET OPPOSITION LAST YEAR AND WAS PLACED ON THE ROSTER. THE SECRETARIAT BELIEVES THAT THE SOVIETS WILL NOT BLICK THEIR APPLICATION FOR RECLASSIFICATION THIS YEAR.

4. IN ADDITION TO THE US-BASED NGOS NOTED ABOVE, THE SECRETARIAT HAS INFORMALLY INDICATED DOUBTS ABOUT THE INTERNATIONAL RESEARCH INSTITUTE FOR IMMIGRATION AND EMIGRATION POLICIES (AUSTRIA) AND HUMAN RIGHTS INTERNATIONAL (FRG). APPARENTLY, BOTH ORGANIZATIONS

REPRESENT ONE-MAN EFFORTS AND, THOUGH PERHAPS WELL-MEANING, HAVE LITTLE TO OFFER THE SYSTEM.

5. CONFERENCE ROOM PAPER NO. 1 (ALSO POUCHED CHAVEAS) DEALS WITH PENDING ITEMS. FROM OUR PERSPECTIVE THE MORE IMPORTANT ISSUE CONCERNS THE REVIEW OF NGOS IN CONSULTATIVE STATUS. ALTHOUGH SUCH A REVIEW IS SUPPOSED TO BE CARRIED OUT EVERY FOUR YEARS (ECOSOC RESOLUTION 1296, PARA 40(B)), THE LAST SUCH REVIEW WAS DONE IN 1968. THE SECRETARIAT BELIEVES THAT A CONCISE REVIEW BASED ON CONCRETE CRITERIA WOULD BE A USEFUL EXERCISE BUT WARNS THAT THE SOVIETS ARE PUSHING THE REVIEW AS A WAY TO RAISE POLITICAL OBJECTIONS (E.G. AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL). THE COMMITTEE WILL HAVE TO DECIDE WHETHER TO INITIATE A REVIEW EXERCISE, THE MODALITIES FOR SUCH AN EXERCISE, CRITERIA TO BE USED IN THE REVIEW, AND WHETHER TO APPOINT A COMMITTEE OF STATES TO DEFINE THE CRITERIA.

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PAGE 04 USUN N 00272 020042Z

6. CONFERENCE ROOM PAPER NO. 2 (ALSO POUCHED CHAVEAS) CONTAINS PROPOSED CHANGES IN THE QUESTIONNAIRE FOR NGOS SEEKING CONSULTATIVE STATUS. WE DO NOT SEE ANY DIFFICULTIES HERE.

7. MISSION PLANS TO INITIATE INFORMAL CONSULTATIONS WITH OTHER MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE NEXT WEEK AND WOULD APPRECIATE THE EARLIEST POSSIBLE INDICATION FROM THE DEPT ON APPLICANTS WHOM WE WISH TO PUSH.
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